

John Forsyth to Andrew Jackson, July 15, 1836, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

SECRETARY FORSYTH TO JACKSON.1

1 Maj. William B. Lewis, writing to A. Pageot in Paris, July 6, 1836, of the attitude of the government on Texas, had this to say: "The President was authorized on the last day of the session, to recognise the Independence of Texas, whenever he thinks it proper to do so, that is, he is vested with discretionary powers in relation to the matter. I refer to this because it is a subject which excites, at this time, some interest probably in Europe. It is my impression, however, that no steps will be taken in relation to the matter, before the next meeting of congress, when, in all probability, unless Mexico reconquers Texas, or gives pretty conclusive evidence, of her ability to do so, I think its independence will be acknowledged by the U. States."

Private

Washington, July 15, 1836.

My dear Sir, In compliance with your directions I invited Mess. Grayson and Collinsworth to call upon me at the Department of State. My call for their authority was answered by the production of papers similar to those given to Childress and Hamilton, signed by Mr. Burnett² but without seal. pointing to this radical defect, I told them that their powers must be put into proper order before any thing could be done with them officially, but that time enough would be afforded as you would not act definitely upon the subject of Texas until the report of a Confidential Agent sent to that Country should be received. From a long and full conversation with them I learned that they had no instructions or authority to

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do more than talk about the terms upon which Texas might be admitted into the Union, These terms to be hereafter considered and discussed and confirmed or rejected by the Texan Govt. or such modifications made as should be deemed expedient. With this understanding of their authority and views I requested them to write me a private letter,

2 P. W. Grayson and James Collingsworth were at this time Texas commissioners in Washington. George C. Childress and James Hamilton were distinguished Texas leaders, and David G. Burnet was the president of the Republic of Texas.

explanatory of the wishes of the Texans as far as they could now be known. This letter received yesterday is now forwarded to you. The date is a mistake, it was delivered to me on the 14th inst. I shall do nothing but hear them talk untill you have, after considering the enclosed, given me your instructions.³

3 See Collingsworth and Grayson to Burnet, July 15, in *Diplomatic Correspondence of the Republic of Texas*, II. 110 (*Annual Report* of the American Historical Association for 1907).

I am my dear sir very sincerely your friend